

**Port Chester Middle School  
 Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District  
 Schoolwide Profile Comprehensive Plan - Title 1  
 July 2016**

**Schoolwide Planning Team Members:**

| <b>Team Member:</b> | <b>Position or Affiliation:</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Team Member:        | Position or Affiliation:        |
| Patrick Swift       | Principal                       |
| Christine Zidik     | Asst Principal                  |
| Byron Womack        | Asst Principal                  |
| Maria Figura        | Academic Learning Specialist    |
| Chris Halstead      | Academic Learning Specialist    |
| Linda O'Connor      | Academic Learning Specialist    |
| Kevin Hanlon        | Academic Learning Specialist    |
| Katherine Hohman    | Academic Learning Specialist    |

**Goal Statement**

**Student Achievement Goals:**

**Goal 1:**

During the first month of school, teachers set goals for improving student progress based on the results of Student Learning Objectives and SRI And SMI assessments. After the second administration of the SRI and SMI there will be a midyear review of student progress and by analyzing the data the teachers will be able to modify teaching strategies based on students needs as determined by a midyear gains analysis. Our goal is that 75% of students will make half a year's growth in half a year's time.

After the final SRI, SMI and the end of year student learning assessment, we will perform an end of year review of goal attainment for students to develop an action plan for students for their following year. Our end of year goal is for 75% of students to make a full year's growth in a full year's time on one or more of their benchmark assessments.

## **School Operational Goals:**

Goal 1: The Port Chester Middle School will provide professional development to all faculty that will develop a common language, grading and homework policies that will ensure a consistent and coherent learning experience for all the students at the Port Chester Middle School. Professional Development will occur during academic planning lead by administration and department chairs. Our goal is for 3 out of 4 weekly planning meetings per month will be focused on developing a common language, as well as a consistent grading and homework policy.

This coupled with our monthly superintendent's conference days will continue this development. The use of google survey and the extraction of data will enable us to understand the wants and needs of our faculty for future professional development.

### **1. Vision statement for reform:**

Port Chester Middle Schools Faculty and Staff seek to empower each student to meet their full potential by providing rigorous yet fair academic learning experiences, while building strong character in an environment that is relevant to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will give our students the skills needed to improve on standardized assessments and overall academic success.

## **Comprehensive Plan**

(See also: *Non-Regulatory Guidance* beginning on p. 16 and *Finalizing the Schoolwide Plan – A Rubric for Monitoring and Evaluation*)

### **Our School's Vision and Mission Statements:**

Port Chester Middle Schools Faculty and Staff seek to empower each student to meet their full potential via academic learning experiences in a rigorous yet fair atmosphere, while building strong character in an environment that is relevant to life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**“SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT”**

### **Brief School Profile:**

PCMS is a school with a unique demographic population. We have 90 Faculty, and 1100 student. We offer a variety of programs ranging from extended day and Prep for Success to Drama and Athletics. Each faculty member views him/herself as an ELA teacher who continually embeds ELA skills into lessons. ELA is a priority, and students understand that literacy across the curricula is integral to being a successful learner. Students experience success in ELA because of the faculty's overwhelming dedication to the Common Core Curriculum. Teachers devote themselves to identifying and delineating skills students need to become excellent readers and writers.

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## Summary of Needs Assessment:

It was determined through our needs assessment and data research that teachers throughout the school are using a variety of language and literacy philosophies and vocabulary that confuse students. In addition, our grading procedures need to be streamlined and we need a guiding philosophy regarding grading in order to increase consistency in the way we communicate student achievement and progress to parents, students and between teachers. Homework requirements and philosophies are inconsistent through grade levels and departments, creating an environment that confuses students due to lack of routine and various expectations.

## Our Chosen Focus Area:

Curriculum and Instruction

Literacy: Common Language development in all content areas.

## 1. Comprehensive Needs Assessment

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| <b>**Profile Focus Area – Curriculum and Instruction</b><br><b>Summary of problem:</b> Literacy: Common Language development   |  |
| <b>**Profile Focus Area – Curriculum and Instruction</b><br><b>Summary of problem:</b> Literacy: Common Language development in all content areas with a focus on specific needs in the content area.  |  |
| <b>Problem/Need:</b><br>Teacher throughout the school are using a variety of language and literacy philosophies that may confuse students.<br><br>Teachers require time outside the school day to coordinate language and curriculum development.. | <b>Possible Actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Develop a literacy Common Language for all content areas. Begin with a universal term for the objective of the lesson. Using Language Targets that will align to the Common Core.</li><li>● Develop a Literacy Vocabulary in all content areas that can be utilized through all the content areas.</li><li>● Professional Development teacher workshops will occur after school and in the summer</li></ul> |

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| <p><b>Problem/Need:</b><br/>Grading Procedures – there is need for a streamlined grading philosophy to increase consistency in the way we communicate student progress to parents and students.</p> | <p><b>Possible Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grading by departments and aligning percentages and areas of focus.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Problem/Need:</b><br/>Homework requirements and philosophies are inconsistent through grade levels and departments</p>  | <p><b>Possible Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and share school board policies with staff.</li> <li>Faculty to design a philosophy that meets the needs of our unique population.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Problem/Need</b></p> <p><b>Focus on Math and Science scores on NYS assessments and local assessments</b></p>  | <p><b>Possible Actions</b></p> <p><b>Develop an afterschool initiative to enhance Math and Science skills while integrating language skills as noted in our first need</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Problem/Need</b></p>  | <p><b>Possible Actions</b></p>  |

**Give a short description of where the school is now and where it wants to be when the vision is realized:**

PCMS is a large community school with a small school feel that is divided into nine academies. Students perform well on school assessments as seen in our honor and high honor roll. We look forward to seeing improvement on our standardized test scores when they eventually align to our population.

**Describe, using data, the student population, staff, and community demographics, as well as programs and school mission.**

In affluent Westchester County, 15% of children attending school are classified “poverty eligible.” In comparison, almost 72% of Port Chester Middle School students are “poverty eligible.” This high concentration of poverty, together with ethnic and language changes continue to impact middle school operations. In 2000, when the Principal began as an administrator at PCMS, 37% of students were Hispanic surnamed. Currently, close to 74%% are Hispanic surnamed. An increasing percentage of students come to us with significant gaps in their native education. We are a diverse school committed to success for every student. Six percent of students are African-American, 2% are Asian, and 18% are

Caucasian. We embrace our diverse population and their families into our school culture. This is the essence of our Mission Statement : *Our Strength is Our Diversity!*

Within this diverse population it can be seen that approximately 15% of the population are ENL and another 15% are students with disabilities.

The school currently has approximately 1100 students in grades six through eight. This changes annually as we will have new entrants in September from a variety of Central and South American countries.

*PCMS Mission Statement: "PCMS is committed to the individual needs of its diverse population. Our aim is to ensure that all students will achieve academically, develop socially and discover their unique gifts and talents."*

### **What data sources were used to determine focus area needs?**

ELA and Math scores since the inception of the Common Core learning standards.

SRI and SMI Scores

Report Card Data

Read 180

Pilot Star Renaissance

### **Based on the data, what are our strengths and challenges? What priorities does the information suggest?**

The data suggests we have strong students that are able to achieve at high levels as depicted in our honor rolls. Through the strategic implementation of quality professional development and cohesive systems we plan to put in place in 2016-17, we look forward to seeing improvement on our standardized test scores. Our priority is leveling the playing field and closing the gap for newcomers and children with special needs. PCMS is beginning to utilize data to place students in intervention classes based on their specific needs.

Building on to what began in 2015-16, we will continue to professionally develop our faculty to meet the needs of our students based on the Common Core curriculum in the area of literacy for all content areas.

## **2. Schoolwide Reform Strategies:**

Teachers will work in academic teams throughout the year during staff development time to develop a literacy common language for all content areas. When we have implemented this reform strategy, teachers will begin every lesson with a universal term that comes out of the agreed upon common language for the objective of that lesson. Every classroom will use Language Targets in their lessons and have that written on the board that will align to the Common Core Standards for the content area.

We will use academic team planning time to develop a working literacy vocabulary aligned to the Common Core standards in all content areas that will be utilized through all the content areas.

After reviewing our school board policy, we will align our homework and grading policies, procedures and philosophies by department, including the alignment of percentages and areas of focus. We will seek to meet the needs of our unique population during this revision process.

### **3. Instruction by Highly Qualified Professional Staff/Teachers:**

The Port Chester School District only employs certified teachers in the appropriate content area for which they are hired. All of our teachers are Highly-Qualified; there are no teachers teaching out of their certification area. We consider all teachers to be literacy teachers within their content areas especially during the Common Core perspectives. To provide high-quality instruction, all teachers are trained in ongoing professional development throughout the year in a variety of strategies and literacy intervention techniques in order to ensure the incorporation of best practices into all class instruction. For the 2016-17 school year, all staff will receive professional development in a variety of literacy strategies and intervention techniques, including RtI tiered strategies, SIOP/SDAIE model for ELLs, embedding literacy skills into content instruction, guided reading and literacy stations. Resources will include providing teachers appropriate materials for continued training and trainers will be hired as needed using Title I funding.

Target dates: 9.1.16-6.30.17

Person(s) responsible: Building Principal/Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Grants, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

### **4. High Quality and On-Going Professional Development:**

The district is committed to ongoing, high quality professional development for all our teachers, teaching assistants and administrators. These programs are offered in the form of speakers/presenters, workshops, conferences and discussion forums. The district professional development committee, served by teacher and administrator representatives from every building and at the district level, collects feedback from the staff in the form of an annual Needs Assessment, as well as surveys after each Early Release Day and Superintendent's Conference Day professional development session. These data help inform the decision-making for the subsequent professional development, which is designed based on teacher feedback, administrators' perceived needs for their staff as well as best practices in the content areas and technology advancement needs. Ongoing training in areas such as SIOP/SDAIE for our ELL population, and RtI for our struggling learners supports our teachers in reaching the needs for all students in the classroom. Opportunities to advance their technology skills allows teachers to remain on the cutting edge, with courses in Google Apps and SmartBoard training, as well as for software and web-based programs such as Castle Learning and Flocabulary. For the 2016-17 school year,

staff will receive professional development in a variety of literacy strategies and intervention techniques, including RtI tiered strategy PD, SIOP/SDAIE model for ELLs, embedding literacy skills into content instruction, guided reading and literacy stations. Resources will include providing teachers appropriate materials for continued training, and trainers will be hired as needed using Title I funding.

Target dates: 9.1.16-6.30.17

Person(s) Responsible: Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors of Curriculum

## **5. Strategies to Attract Highly Qualified Teachers to High-Needs Schools:**

The district posts all open teaching positions on OLAS, the BOCES hosted website for certificated openings in education across NYS. For every open position, we receive hundreds of applications of prospective teachers new to teaching, as well and many who are already teaching and want to change districts to come to Port Chester. Our diversity is attractive to many, and we seek to hire the best candidates from the vast pool, many of whom are bilingual in Spanish. We host student-teachers from a variety of colleges and universities, giving the teacher candidate an in-district experience that prompts many to apply for positions after then studies are over. In addition, many of our teachers began as Teaching Assistants, and gain experience in the Port Chester classroom prior to becoming a teacher themselves. Many of our teachers were Port Chester students as well.

We will continue this method since it is working well for the district, attracting a diverse and talented pool of educators.

Target dates: 9.1.16 - 6.30.17

Person(s) Responsible: Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Grants

## **6. Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement:**

Teachers and Principals will provide workshops in academic, social/emotional learning and character education in the evening throughout the year. The ESEA waiver and what it means will be reviewed with parents. Parents of Kindergarten children who are Title I eligible while screening will be offered a spring-summer program which will be conducted by teachers to make parent the “first teacher.” In this 4 week program called “Jump into K”, teachers will train parents (while their children get supervision by teacher aides). After the session

parents take practice materials home to work with their children. The next week repeats until the project is complete. This transition program will become a permanent district protocol to lower the achievement gap of students entering Kindergarten. District newsletters and all parent communication is sent home in both English and Spanish to ensure our parents have the opportunity to stay abreast of all information regarding their child and school. For the 2016-17 school year we have increased our number of translators for this information in order to expedite the translation of these materials.

Target dates: 9.1.16-6.30.17

Person(s) Responsible: Building Principal, Director of Curriculum, Supervisor of K-6 ELA

## **7. Pre-School Transition Strategies:**

To prepare for the transition to Kindergarten, the staff functions to ensure a seamless passage

for the children and their families. Direct run and delegate agencies offer support, information, and referrals to families leaving the Pre-K program. Transition planning begins for each child and family at least six months prior to the child's moving to Kindergarten. Children entering Kindergarten participate in activities which may include children, staff, and parents visiting the elementary school. Parent meetings are held to discuss school readiness and expectations. Meetings are held both individually and in small groups, to assist parents with the Kindergarten registration process. Forums are held for families, with school staff as speakers. Referrals are made to the Committee on Special Education for children with disabilities, with parental permission. Staff members review and evaluate these activities annually to ensure the needs of parents and children are met. New ideas are added or modified as programs evolve. A kindergarten skills checklist is administered at the end of the school year. It is given to the child's family who can share it with the elementary school. Westcop works to meet the goals and objectives of the Port Chester School District so there is a smooth transition between curriculums, providing the foundational skills necessary in pre-K for students to be successful in Kindergarten. Children are assessed three times a year (fall, winter and spring) in the following six research-based domains: social emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy and mathematics. These assessments provide information to help teachers determine if students are making the appropriate growth in pre-K needed in order to succeed in Kindergarten. Kindergarten Screening is held in the spring in each building to help assess children's readiness for Kindergarten. We have adopted and trained our teachers in the newly released Dial-4 assessment for this purpose. The district has created a new entrant screening protocol for all to follow which includes the state requirement documents along with other important screening tools such as HLQ, video, informal interview, NYSITELL as needed and the Woodcock-Munoz as needed. Ongoing trainings and improvements to the K screening process will occur in 2016-17.

Target dates 9.1.16-6.30.17

Person(s) Responsible: Administrator for Pre-K, Building Principal, K-6 Supervisor for ELA

## **8. Teacher Participation in Making Assessment Decisions:**

Teachers collaborate with administration to help determine assessment tools, calendar dates for assessments, report card changes and pilots. Instructional Support Staff were hired to help support and lead the teacher involvement in many areas, one of them being assessment decisions. K-8 uses a universal screening three times a year for benchmarking and data collection. Through the RtI process, teachers make on-going instructional decisions based on progress monitoring assessment data. Teachers meet after assessments are given to analyze and determine next steps. From teacher feedback, the district determines if specific assessment should continue or be changed. The challenge the district faces constantly is the limited high quality English/Spanish assessments and resources available for purchase. There was collaboration in creating a standard report card with specific grading guidelines as well as specific assessments used for certain scores, specifically for the reading assessment. At the middle and high school level, the district released a guide to standardize the report card grading system. For the 2016-2017 school year, the district will use a computer-based assessment for 3-5 students for diagnostic assessing and progress monitoring. The district will pilot software that includes benchmark assessments for our ELLs. The Kindergarten students will be introduced to using Chromebooks and SuccessMaker, this will provide computer-based data to help inform, instruct, and provide additional practice in the area of literacy. The K-5 staff is researching and will implement an additional writing program pilot to better instruct and assess individual's writing skills.

Target dates (use 9.1.16-6.30.17)

Persons responsible - Building principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors of Curriculum

## **9. Timely and Additional Assistance to Students Having Difficulties Mastering Standards:**

The Port Chester School District continues to improve on the RtI model. At the elementary level, the district-wide RtI Elementary Committee was able to create an RtI flowchart, RtI forms on google drive for academic and behavior, an inventory of tiered intervention programs available and needed as well as desired training needed for the upcoming school year. With that being said, all staff has on-going training about the RtI process starting at the classroom level. For our ELL population, we continue to work on finding appropriate intervention materials, specifically for our Spanish speakers. In order to better serve our special education

students, our staff will be receiving refreshers and additional training in available programs while collaborating on best practices. The key is collecting the data using targeted instruction outside of their core instruction. The district expanded their before and after school programming to help meet the individualized Tier II instruction for many students. At the middle school level, the RtI team accomplished creating targeted Tier II groups as well as having classroom teachers collaborate on progress monitoring specific students within their team. Teams on all levels continue to reflect on best practices and revise/adapt curriculum and formative assessments to align with the standards, yet meet the needs of the students. For the 2016-2017 school year, the staff will adapt curriculum to include literacy work stations, schedule a separate time for RtI-guided reading time for 3-5, turn-key trainings about RtI, create small targeted after school groups, and purchase additional resources to support the standards and student improvement. The district is researching bilingual resources for HLA support at the different tier levels and will purchase materials to fill in the gaps. One area we reviewed and found needs replenishing and revamping is literacy libraries for our students to access.

Target dates (use 9.1.16-6.30.17)

Persons responsible - Building principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors of Curriculum

## **10. Coordination and Integration of Federal, State and Local Programs and Resources:**

- a. School Parent Involvement Policy
- b. Planning to meet the needs of homeless students

- A. The partial 1% set aside for parent programs will take place in the form of parent trainings in understanding Title I rights responsibilities, common core standards, the new assessments and program goals and outcomes and why the scores have dropped so far.
  
- B. Homeless: Port Chester-Rye UFSD has conducted a random residency study to provide data to explain the continued increase in student population while other adjoining districts have populations which are diminishing. This fact is illustrated in the increase of homeless students over the past two years. It was established that the mobility rate of many families is higher than estimated; this is due to extreme poverty, increases in rents, limited housing stock and an influx of new residents. With the increasing population, the district will increase the set-aside funding from \$25,000 to \$35,000 dollars in order for our Homeless liaison to meet the needs of children. McKinney Vento grant funding this year will abide by all the elements included in the law and provide all the services to all identified students under the definitions and parameters outlined in the No Child Left Behind Law.

Target dates: 9.1.16-6.30.17

Person(s) Responsible: Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Grants